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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJ NORAD AGREEMENT RENEWAL

1. IN MEETING JANUARY 24 WITH EMBOFFS ON OTHER MATTER, EXTAFF DIRECTOR FOR DEFENCE RELATIONS (MARSHALL) RAISED SUBJECT OF NORAD AGREEMENT RENEWAL, ASKING IF THIS SUBJECT LIKELY FORM PART OF AGENDA FOR MEETINGS WITH DOD ASSISTANT SECRETARY ELLSWORTH. EMBOFFS INDICATED THAT ELLSWORTH MEETINGS LIKELY DEAL WITH GENERAL TOPIC OF DEFENSE RELATIONS RATHER THAN SPECIFICS. MARSHALL THEN OUTLINED CURRENT GOC THINKING ON NORAD.

2. NORAD AGREEMENT NOW UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION IN EXTAFF (MARSHALL HAD FILE ON HIS DESK DURING CALL). WHILE HE COULD PREDICT NO TIMETABLE FOR NEGOTIATIONS, GOC PLANNED HAVE NEW AGREEMENT WRAPPED UP WELL BEFORE MAY 12 EXPIRATION. INITIATIVE, HE FELT, WAS WITH GOC, WHICH WOULD BE PRESENTING DRAFT NOTE TO USG, EITHER THROUGH EMBASSY OTTAWA OR VIA CANADIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON TO DEPARTMENT IN DUE COURSE, FOLLOWING SUBMISSION TO CABINET FOR AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE.

3. NOTING THAT ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW AGREEMENT WOULD
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BE GREETED IN US WITH "YAWNS," MARSHALL INDICATED

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THAT INTEREST WAS MUCH GREATER IN CANADA, WHERE
AGREEMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE PRESENTED TO PUBLIC AND
PARLIAMENT WITH ACCEPTABLE JUSTIFICATION. FOR THIS
REASON AND BECAUSE ORIGINAL LANGUAGE CLEARLY OUTDATED,
GOC WOULD BE PROPOSING SUBSTANTIVE LANGUAGE CHANGES
TO UPDATE AGREEMENT, SPECIFICALLY TO HAVE AGREEMENT
COVER AERO-SPACE SURVEILLANCE, NOW THAT MANNED-BOMBER
THREAT MINIMAL. MARSHALL INDICATED THAT NEW AGREEMENT
WOULD HAVE TO SPELL OUT EXTENT AND NATURE OF PARTICIPATION
BY BOTH SIDES. HE RULED OUT POSSIBILITY CONSIDERED AT
ONE TIME OF HAVING AGREEMENT REVISION BECOME UMBRELLA
FOR ALL 280-ODD DEFENSE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN US AND CANADA.
HE ALSO IMPLIED GOC GENERAL ACCEPTANCE OF LONGER-TERM
NORAD AGREEMENT, CITING AT LEAST FIVE-YEAR PERIOD.

4. MARSHALL REFERRED TO RESPONSE BY DEFMIN RICHARDSON
TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION JANUARY 22 CONCERNING
POSSIBLE REFERENCE OF NORAD AGREEMENT TO HOUSE STANDING
COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE. RICHARDSON
HAD SAID THAT MATTER WOULD BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE
BUT GAVE NO DATE. MARSHALL SAID THAT IT WAS NOT YET
DECIDED WHETHER AGREEMENT WOULD BE DISCUSSED IN HOUSE
COMMITTEE BEFORE OR AFTER CONCLUSION OF EXTENSION.
HE IMPLIED THAT IF IT WAS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE BEFORE
NEGOTIATIONS, IT WOULD PROBABLY TAKE FORM OF ADVISING
COMMITTEE OF DECISIONS GOC HAS ALREADY MADE CONCERNING
AGREEMENT, RATHER THAN PERMITTING COMMITTEE TO PARTICIPATE
IN DECISION-MAKING PROCESS.

5. COMMENT: CRITICISMS OF GOC DEFENSE BUDGET HAVE OFTEN
FOCUSSED ON NORAD AS AREA WHERE CUTS COULD BE MADE.
THUS GOC MUST PROCEED CAREFULLY IN ORDER NOT TO
JEOPARDIZE OVERALL AGREEMENT AND YET REFLECT BUDGETARY
CONSTRAINTS. GOC INTENTION TO REDUCE NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT AND
PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO NORAD ALREADY KNOWN; NOT YET SURE
IS WHETHER GOC WILL CUT SO HARD THAT PROSPECTIVE
BAKER-NUNN CAMERA IN QUEBEC WILL ALSO BE DELETED FROM
BUDGET. CONVERSELY, GOC WILL UNDOUBTEDLY PUSH FOR
ALTERED NORAD REGIONAL CONFIGURATION AND WILL TRUMPET
CANADA'S RESULTANT AUTONOMY OVER ITS OWN AIRSPACE.
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